

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVE
GARDINER-PARK COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: August 22, 2007

Action: Funding for Gardiner-Park County Water System

Location of Project: Gardiner, Montana

DEQ Funding: \$ 200,000.

Total Project Cost: \$ 240,000.

An environmental review has been conducted by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for proposed funding for improvements to the Gardiner-Park County Water District water system. The proposed project involves the installation of 1880 feet of 8-inch ductile iron water main. The purpose of the project is to replace a water main that is on a steep slope, not well supported and may fail with a water main that will be in a much more stable location.

The affected environment will primarily be in the right-of-way of Highway 89 beginning 0.4 miles north-west of the intersection of Highway 89 and Hellroaring Street and ending 1880 feet north-west of that point on Highway 89. The human environment affected will include residents in Gardiner and travelers in the area. Based on DEQ's environmental assessment, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

This project will be funded in part with low interest loans through the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project: a Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects by Patrick Murtagh received August 22, 2007, and an addendum to the July 2002 Gardiner-Park County Water District Preliminary Engineering Report by Montana Engineering and Administration, received July 2007; and an environmental checklist completed by the DEQ. In addition to these references, letters were sent to Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). Responses have been received from DEQ, SHPO and USFWS. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

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Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than September 21, 2007. After evaluating substantive comments received, DEQ will revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand if no substantive comments are received during the comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

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